

## **FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

Public Safety Training Center  
5370 Public Safety Place  
Frederick, MD 21704

### **MINUTES of January 31, 2017 Meeting**

I. The meeting was called to order.

II. The following members were present: Mari Lee, Tonya Amedon, David Kaye, Lisa Clark, Francisco Alves, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye, Annette Breiling, Lee Wisner, Irene Packer-Halsey, Gene Stanton, Felicia Turner and Roger Sobkowiak.

Liaison member Jet Reid was present.

III. Other persons present were FPD Captain Patrick Grossman and Lt. Thomas Tokarz, and Frederick County Business Development Specialist Sherman Coleman.

IV. An invitation was extended to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. The November 2016 HRC meeting minutes were reviewed. Lisa Clark moved to approve them and Tonya Amedon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Members of the public were invited to make comments. Lt. Tokarz reported that the FPD's annual report to the HRC will be coming in February.

VII. Sherman Coleman presented a very informative report on the County's Minority Business Vision program which he started about 18 months ago. The program assists people who are already in business, as well as those who are looking to get into business. It helps minority business owners get in touch with each other, and empowers the community by developing business leaders. A special emphasis will be made on youth in the coming months. He invited HRC members to attend one of the Minority Business Vision events that are held each month and advertised on Facebook.

VIII. Treasurer Lisa Clark reported that the HRC has \$3,893.55 in funds on hand.

IX. Officers' Reports: On behalf of the Special Events Committee, Lisa Clark reported that the Legislative Lunch was a great success. More than 80 people attended. The HRC Awards Dinner is set for April 3 at Dutch's Daughter. Award nominations, ads and tickets need work by all HRC members. Irene Packer-Halsey asked if the American Legion on Taney Avenue could be considered for next year's event. She also asked if criteria should be established for use by the committee that reviews nominations and selects winners. Tickets will be sold online this year, and will cost \$35 each.

Mari Lee reported that the first issue of the HRC quarterly newsletter will be sent out by email very soon. She and Lisa also discussed participation by HRC members in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day proclamation at Winchester Hall, the MLK Day program at TJ High School, and the MLK Day of Service event at which 110 hats and 37 blankets were completed. Lisa Clark added that 123 volunteers participated this year in the Day of Service activities.

X. Old business: Annette Breiling reported that more than 250 people attended this year's MLK Day Blessed Community Potluck. It was another outstanding success and there were a number of interesting speakers.

The HRC purchased an ad in the program booklet for the local chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs recent Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance and Awards Luncheon. Mari Lee reported that it was a good event and that Roger Wilson, the County's Government Affairs & Public Policy Director was honored at it. It was suggested that the HRC try to arrange for the video that was shown at this luncheon to be presented at an HRC meeting.

XI. HRD Director's report: Miles Ward encouraged all HRC members to submit nominations for the upcoming Awards Dinner, and pointed out that they know a great deal about the people and organizations who are making a difference in our community. Miles mentioned some upcoming rallies that might be of interest to members, and reported that the Boy Scouts announced an end to its ban on transgender youth. He also distributed informational flyers for Black History Month.

XII. New Business: Tonya Amedon reported that the youth leadership program will begin meeting again in February. The Boys & Girls Club will host, and it will take place in the evening. The HRC may decide to invite some of the young people who participate to attend the Awards Dinner in April and act as helpers.

Mari Lee set Saturday, March 18, from 9 am until 12 pm, for the annual HRC Retreat. It will be held at the Public Safety Training Facility.

Irene Packer-Halsey moved that the HRC consider meeting to discuss the changing environment in the country, what it might mean to Frederick County and what it might mean to the HRC's mission and activities. The motion passed. Mari Lee said that Irene should discuss this at the next Executive Committee meeting so a decision can be made on when and how to do it.

There was general discussion about what type of events the HRC should sponsor. Some members said that only non-political and non-religious events should be sponsored by the HRC. Others felt the lines were not clear, and that further discussion should be held at some point.

David Kaye moved that the HRC should send a letter encouraging Frederick County and Frederick City to become sanctuary jurisdictions. The letter would first go to the Executive Committee for review and discussion, and then to the full HRC for consideration and approval.

Tonya Amedon seconded. The motion was approved. Mari Lee said that David should discuss this at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Irene Packer-Halsey asked if meetings could end with each member being allowed to make one brief statement.

Mari Lee said that the HRC has been asked to purchase an ad in the program booklet for the Commission for Women's Leadership Alliance Dinner in March. The smallest ad is ¼ page and costs \$125. No motion was made to approve such a purchase.

Mari Lee said that the HRC has been asked to purchase space as a vendor at the Frederick Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs upcoming Spring Extravaganza in April. The cost is \$85. No motion was made to approve such a purchase.

XIII. Announcements and upcoming events: Mari Lee said that the Commission for Women and the League of Women Voters are planning a forum or public program, and asked if anyone from the HRC was interested in being part of the planning process. Marguerite Vacca-Kaye, Tonya Amedon and Irene Packer-Halsey indicated they were interested in becoming involved.

XIV. The meeting was adjourned.